
Transportation and Communications Committee

June 1, 2006

Action Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation and Communications Committee held its meeting at the Westin in Long Beach. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Harry Baldwin, Chair, City of San Gabriel. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Aldinger, Jim	City of Manhattan Beach
Baldwin, Harry (Chair)	City of San Gabriel
Beauman, John	City of Brea
Bone, Lou	City of Tustin
Burke, Yvonne	Los Angeles County
Correa, Lou	Orange County
Daniels, Gene	City of Paramount
Dunlap, Judy	City of Inglewood
Flickinger, Bonnie	City of Moreno Valley
Garcia, Lee Ann	City of Grand Terrace
Lowenthal, Bonnie (Vice-Chair)	City of Long Beach
O'Connor, Pam	City of Santa Monica
Pettis, Greg	Cathedral City
Spence, David	Arroyo Verdugo COG
Szerlip, Don	South Bay Cities COG
Talbot, Paul	City of Alhambra
Uranga, Tonia Reyes	City of Long Beach

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Members Not Present

Adams, Steve	Riverside, WRCOG
Becerra, Glen	City of Simi Valley
Brown, Art	City of Buena Park
Buckley, Tom	City of Lake Elsinore
Dale, Lawrence	City of Barstow
DeLara, Juan	City of Coachella
Dixon, Richard	City of Lake Forrest
Gabelich, Rae	City of Long Beach
George, Gary	City of Redlands
Gurule, Frank	City of Cudahy
Hernandez, Robert	City of Anaheim
Herrera, Carol	City of Diamond Bar
Joffe, Enid	San Gabriel Valley COG
Lowe, Robin	City of Hemet/RCTC
Marshall, Patsy	City of Buena Park
Mikels, Judy	Ventura County
Miller, Paul	City of Simi Valley
Millhouse, Keith	City of Moorpark
Moqet, Shenna	Riverside, WRCOG
Ovitt, Gary	San Bernardino County
Roberts, Ron	City of Temecula
Rutherford, Mark	City of Westlake Village
Smith, Greg	City of Los Angeles
Smyth, Cameron	City of Santa Clarita
Stone, Jeff	Riverside County
Sykes, Tom	City of Walnut
Tyler, Sidney	City of Pasadena
Wapner, Alan	City of Ontario

New Members

Voting Members, Not Elected Official

Casey, Rose	Caltrans
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1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE

The Honorable Harry Baldwin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

2.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Honorable Harry Baldwin, City of San Gabriel, was re-elected as Chair and The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach, was re-elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

4.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Approval Item

4.1.1 Approve Minutes of May 4, 2006

5.2 Receive and File

4.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix

MOTION was made to MOVE the Consent Calendar items.

Motion was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 2004 RTP Update Strategy/SAFETEA-LU Compliance

Rich Macias, SCAG, stated that prior to SAFETEA-LU, SCAG was required to update the RTP every three years. SAFETEA-LU now allows for a four-year RTP cycle, which SCAG now will follow. SCAG has received little or no guidance on the new provisions from its federal counterparts. As a result staff has been working closely with its membership transportation commissions, the COG's, Caltrans, and the federal government representatives to review and interpret much of what has been contained within the context of the new SAFETEA-LU.

An issue arises when the 4 year cycle is implemented. Under the four-year cycle, the fourth year falls into a "grace" period in which air quality conformity for the plan (previously 3 years) lapses. Under this grace period the MPO may still implement projects, but may not amend its RTIP. Staff has determined that this would create an unacceptable risk to the transportation commissions that may result in possible losses of federal transportation funds.

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The report presents SCAG's proposed approach to the 2007/8 RTP update which would allow the region maximum flexibility in developing the next RTP while maintaining transportation conformity on the current plan and the necessary flexibility to implement it to the extent possible.

Mr. Macias stated that there were four options that could help the region minimize the adverse impact of the potential amendment restrictions:

- Adopt the plan as close to the July 1, 2007 SAFETEA-LU deadline as possible to minimize our exposure to the amendment restrictions. Move forward with the full plan update on that basis.
- Continue to pursue our request to incorporate amendment 'threshold' language into the planning rules that will allow certain types of amendments to move forward. A draft of the planning rules is expected to be released shortly. We will certainly take every opportunity to comment on the draft rules.
- Continue pursuing a legislative solution to the problem.
- Develop and adopt an addendum/amendment based on a gap analysis that would address the SAFETEA-LU gap in the current RTP.

Staff is proposing to pursue the following steps to move forward with the RTP update strategy:

- Move forward with the target to adopt a fully updated and SAFETEA-LU compliant RTP by November/December of 2007.
- Continue to follow up on the amendment 'threshold' criteria with the federal agencies and participate in the SAFETEA-LU planning rule making process.
- Continue to seek and pursue legislative relief to the planning restrictions that may be imposed in the 4th year of the current RTP.
- Simultaneously, initiate preparation of an addendum based on the 'Gap Analysis' to bring the current plan into compliance with the planning provisions of SAFETEA-LU to the extent possible. Also, be prepared to modify approach to the proposed addendum based on any new federal guidance on planning that may be issued before it is adopted.
- Initiate discussions with FHWA to indicate our intent to pursue this approach, including the findings of the gap analysis and the general framework to address them.
- Undertake the efforts required to prepare the addendum or the 'Gap Analysis'.
- Take the proposed addendum for adoption by the Regional Council no later than March 2007.

Staff will not be adding new projects to the RTP; it will simply be reformatting and inserting some new chapters to the plan. There is no issue regarding financial

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constraint or air quality conformity, nor is there any cost to SCAG as it is part of the RTP process. Additionally, staff will do an accompanying focused EIR to satisfy the requirements of CEQA.

Motion was made to APPROVE staff recommendation. Motion was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

6.2 Draft 2004 RTP Amendment – Omintrans sbX Project

Phillip Law, SCAG, gave a presentation on the proposal to add a bus rapid transit project, called sbX for San Bernardino Express, to the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan. This would improve transit service along the E Street corridor in the cities of San Bernardino and Loma Linda. Omnitrans has recently selected the locally preferred alternative and is ready to proceed with their preliminary engineering and environmental analysis but cannot do so unless the project is in the RTP. Staff has completed the analysis and has determined that the proposed project would not adversely impact the RTP, including the conformity determination.

Staff is recommending that the TCC authorize the release of the Draft 2004 RTP Amendment for a 30-day public review and comment period. The final report and the responses to comments will be available in August. However, the RC and Policy committees are not meeting in August; consequently staff is going to the Executive Committee for final adoption.

Motion was made to MOVE the release of the Draft 2004 RTP Amendment and EIR Addendum for a 30-day public review. Motion was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

6.3 Draft 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Rich Macias, SCAG, gave a presentation on the Draft 2006 RTIP. He stated staff had completed 60% of the Draft RTIP and estimated that the final draft would be done in two weeks, or thereabouts. The process works accordingly, staff receives the project documentation from the Counties, staff then identifies that the projects meet all the established federal requirements. Staff then sends the projects that don't meet requirements back to the commissions, the commissions then address the issues staff raised. The commissions then send the projects back to SCAG. Staff then finalizes the RTIP.

Mr. Macias stated that what staff was asking of the committee today, would be to allow staff to release the draft when it is completed. When the plan is completed staff will send a copy to the committee and release it for 30-day public review. SCAG will receive public comments and address the comments. Staff will then come back to the TCC and Regional Council identifying specifics of the plan and

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identifying the comments. Staff will then bring the draft RTIP back to the TCC for concurrence at the September meeting.

Motion was made to APPROVE staff recommendation to release the Draft 2006 RTIP for public review and comments. Motion was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Infrastructure Bond & Trailer Bill Summary and Presentation

Don Rhodes, SCAG, stated that the legislature had finally come to an agreement and passed a package of \$37.3 billion dollars worth of bonds which will be on the November ballot.

The bond measure is broken down into four separate bonds in the following amounts:

- \$19.9 billion for transportation (SB 1266)
- \$2.8 billion for housing (SB 1689)
- \$10.4 for education (AB 127)
- \$4 billion for flood protection (AB 140)

8.0 MAGLEV TASK FORCE REPORT

Councilmember Lou Bone, Vice-Chair, stated that consulting firm of IBI made a presentation on the 'Alignment of the IOS between Ontario Airport and West Los Angeles along the I-10 Fwy and the SR-60 Fwy'. IBI also gave a presentation on the 'System Design of the High-Speed Ground Access Study'. The study is going to identify and develop a conception design for connecting the airports in the region. A strategic plan will be formulated that addresses the relevant institutional, legal, and financing issues in order to set fourth the business case for the system. The study will be completed sometime in June.

Information was presented by Councilmember Greg Smith, City of Los Angeles, on the approval by the Transportation Committee of the City of Los Angeles to direct the Chief Legislative Analysis to convene a task force by the city department to prepare a draft JPA document for the formation of the technology, neutral, high-speed transit. The JPA document will be shared with SCAG and other potential members of the JPA.

The Maglev Shanghai trip is scheduled for July 15.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be June 8.

9.0 CHAIR REPORT

There was no report.

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10.0 STAFF REPORT

There was no report.

11.0 GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT

Nancy Pfeffer, SCAG, stated that at the last meeting there was a presentation on particle research and pollution, the third, in a series of health related presentations from speakers who are recommended by the environmental and community members of the Goods Movement Task Force. There was also a progress report from a SCAG consultant who is developing heavy truck model.

12.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

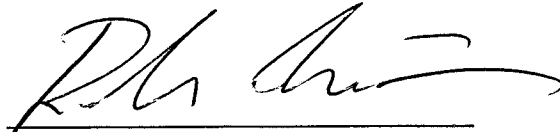
There were no items

13.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Honorable Harry Baldwin, adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 6, 2006, at the SCAG office.**



Rich Macias, Manager
Transportation Planning Division